

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. If they feel that airing the anti-Kerry documentary is in the public interest, they must also air a pro-Kerry documentary of the same length soon after. It is not news coverage to force feed only one side of the story to the public. Preservation of democracy and freedom of speech demand that Sinclair provide balanced coverage in the public interest.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. These airwaves belong to all the people and should not be used to further special interests. Thank you.